**Sunday 3rd April – Serving one another**

**Romans 12:6-13 (New Living Translation)**

**6**In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7**If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8**If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. **9**Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. **10**Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honouring each other. **11**Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. **12**Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. **13**When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**The Example of Jesus**

* Jesus said ‘.. The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve’ (Matthew 20:28)
* ‘I am among you as one who serves’ (Luke 22:27)

**Questions**

1. Share about someone who has blessed you through their servant heartedness. What did they do and how did it affect you?
2. Ask each person to share honestly and humbly about how they understand the gifts they have been given that they can use to help others. See examples of the gifts in the above passage e.g. kindness, encouragement, generosity, hospitality. Get people in the group to share the gifts they see in each other – this may come as a surprise to some!
3. Ask people to share examples of where they feel they serve in their family or working life as well as in church.
4. To what extent do people see a lack of time as a hindrance to serving? Are there choices they need to make in terms of priorities in life? What do they sense is God’s priority for them at the present time?
5. What have been people’s experience of serving God in the church? What have they found that has been positive and satisfying in serving? What are the frustrations or disappointments they have known? Has serving helped them grow as a Christian?
6. Ask if anyone has an unfulfilled desire or passion or interest which could translate into a way of serving in the church? Even if they don’t quite feel ‘up to it’ yet, what next step could they take to realise that desire?

**Prayer**

Pray for one another that the gifts we have been given may be fully utilised in serving the Lord and one another. Ask that God may grant us all a servant heart that we may become more like Christ.